## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A medical image processing method of processing image data representing ~~an image~~ a series of images obtained by a radiography apparatus and read by an image reading apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving the plural kinds of image data representing ~~a~~ the series of images and respective photographing conditions when the series of images are obtained;

(b) executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data;

(c) obtaining output-format control information including information as to output position, rotation and position adjustment of the series of images corresponding to the photographing conditions received at step (a) from among a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the series of images are to be output in one screen; and

(d) automatically constructing a layout of the series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of the output-format control information obtained at step (c).

2. (previously presented): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of said photographing conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

3. (previously presented): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing the obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

outputting one of (i) the image series of images after the image processing and (ii) the series of images in the layout constructed on the basis of the stored output-format control information, in accordance with a user's instruction.

4. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a the step of:

previewing and adjusting the series of ~~images to~~ images to be output in one screen.

5. (original): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

6. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus for processing image data representing ~~an image~~ a series of images obtained by a radiography apparatus and read by an image reading apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving the plural kinds of image data representing ~~a~~ the series of images and respective photographing conditions when the series of images are obtained;

second means for executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data; ~~and~~

third means for obtaining output-format control information including information as to output position, rotation and position adjustment of the series of images corresponding to the photographing conditions received by said first means from among a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the series of images are to be output in one screen; and

fourth means for automatically constructing a layout of the series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of the output-format control information obtained by said third means.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for storing the read obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

means for outputting one of (i) the series of images after the image processing and (ii) the series of images in the layout constructed on the basis of the stored output-format control information, in accordance with a user's instruction.

9. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus for processing image data representing ~~an image~~ a series of images obtained by a radiography apparatus and read by an image reading apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

first means for receiving plural kinds of image data representing ~~a~~ the series of images and respective photographing conditions when the series of images are obtained;

second means for executing image processing of the plural kinds of image data; ~~and~~

third means for obtaining output-format control information including information as to output position, rotation and position adjustment of the series of images corresponding to the photographing conditions received by said first means from among a predetermined set of output-format control information to be used to control an image format when the series of images are to be output in one screen;

fourth means for storing the obtained output-format control information as image attendant information of the image data; and

fifth means for outputting the image data and the image attendant information.

10. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein each of said photographing conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

11. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of said photographing conditions is determined in accordance with a portion to be photographed.

12. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for previewing and adjusting the series of images to be output in one screen.

13. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for previewing and adjusting the series of images to be output in one screen on the film.

14. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

15. (original): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said output-format control information includes information to be used to control at least one of an output position, a position adjustment, an output size, a rotating state and an inverting state of the image.

16. (previously presented): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for automatically constructing a layout of a series of images to be output in one screen on the basis of input image data and image attendant information; and means for outputting the image constructed in the constructed layout.